

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11, 13-19 and 21-38 are pending, with Claims 12 and 20 canceled, Claims 13 and 21 amended, and Claims 22-38 added by the present amendment.

In the Official Action, Claims 12, 13, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Doi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,907,156, hereinafter "Doi").

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the personal interview between the Examiner, the Examiner's supervisor and Applicants' representative on November 29, 2006. During the interview, the Examiners acknowledged that Doi does not anticipate Applicants claimed invention. The Examiners suggested specific modifications to Claims 13 and 21.

Claims 12 and 20 are replaced by new Claims 22-38 in response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants traverse the rejection of Claims 13 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and submit that Claims 13 and 21 are definite. However, as discussed during the interview, Claims 13 and 21 are amended to comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Briefly recapitulating, Claim 1 is directed to a method for identifying pathologic change in medical image data, comprising *inter alia* obtaining a temporal subtraction image from *two images taken at different times*.

Doi describes a difference image approach that differs from theretofore conventional subtraction techniques (e.g., temporal or dual-energy subtraction) in that two sets of image data (i.e. SNR enhanced and SNR suppressed) are obtained from a *same* single projection

chest radiograph.¹ Doi is explicit that the difference image obtained is based upon two images derived *from a single image*.² Doi does not disclose or suggest obtaining a temporal subtraction image *from two images taken at different times* as recited in Claim 1. Doi also does not disclose or suggest obtaining *first and second* dual-energy images taken at first and second points in time as recited in independent Claim 14.

MPEP § 2131 notes that “[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). See also MPEP § 2131.02. “The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Because Doi does not disclose or suggest all the features recited in Claims 1, 14, 22, and 33, Doi does not anticipate the invention recited in Claims 1, 14, 22, and 33, and all claims depending therefrom.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

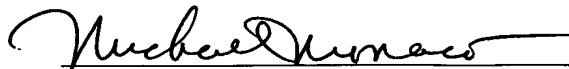
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¹ Doi column 4, line 56.

² Doi, column 9, line 49.